

## **Boat of Garten and Vicinity Community Council**

### **Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 2021 via Zoom Conferencing.**

#### **1. Record of attendees and Apologies received.**

**Community Council Members:** Brian Tolson, Caroline Holroyd, Alan Bennet, Valerie Fairweather, John Dickson.

**Ex Officio:** Muriel Cockburn & Willie McKenna

**Apologies:** Kathryn Gillings

#### **2. Minutes of Meeting of 14 June 2021**

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting by Valerie Fairweather and seconded by John Dickson.

#### **3. Matter arising from the Minutes**

**Proposed Phone Mast** – Brian informed councillors that he had written regarding the proposed phone mast near the steam railway sheds and was informed that it had been re-timed due to the impact of the pandemic. John had heard that the Strathspey Railway did not want the mast in the proposed position as they needed the space for an engine shed and that it was therefore not progressing.

#### **4. Declarations of Interest**

Caroline Holroyd declared that she was the neighbour of one of the parties who had submitted planning permission that was up for review but that she had no objections anyway.

#### **5. Treasurers Report – Alan Bennet**

As you will see it's been a quiet period and the transactions are hopefully self-explanatory.

Although it looks pretty healthy at £ 1430.40, a couple of things to point out:  
The Highland Council grant can only be spent on administrative costs,  
The sum includes last year's £600 donation from the estate to be used to the widest community benefit,  
There are still a few advertisers to pay but that's normal for this time.

### **Treasurers Account**

Balance at 06/06/21	£1197.26	
Balance at 06/09/21	£1430.40	
Credits this period:	£300.00	Advertisers in BOG Standard
	£437.14	Highland Council Grant
Debits this period:	£ 35.00	Data Protection Fee
	£469.00	Printing BOG Standard

### **Environmental Account**

Balance at 12/10/20	£3829.82
Balance at 13/11/20	£3829.82
Credits this period:	£0
Debits this period:	£0

## **6. Planning Matters**

No issues to discuss.

## **7. Items of business which the Chairperson has directed should be considered**

**CNPA / CBP Zoom Call** – Brian attended on this call and described it as being interesting for 2 reasons. Firstly, it was very evident how few Community Councils took part. Secondly, it was very disappointing in its content. There was a review of what had been done around the park but little willingness to listen to what communities were saying was happening around them.

**Proposed Legislation on Short Term lets** – Muriel gave a brief update on the Council meeting that had taken place last Friday. She gave the Community Council a flavour of the type of communications she had been receiving from various people affected by eviction notices particularly. She spoke about the impact particularly from AirBnB on the area and the effect this has had on the availability of short term lets for people wanting to find work in the area. Muriel was not able to give any details at this stage but was hopeful that the Highlands will become a pilot for a scheme to provide some control on this issue.

Brian Tolson and Willie McKenna congratulated all the Councillors involved in taking this issue forward. Acknowledging that you can't run a tourist industry without being able to house people.

**Your views, Your Cairngorms National Park** – The consensus of opinion of this is that it seems to be designed to collate comments and feedback from the general public. Alan commented that he thought the process was not particularly user friendly. Brian asked Willie if there would be a separate consultation with Community Councils and Willie thought that this was due to be rolled out on 25 September. Brian suggested he would write to Murray Ferguson of the CNPA to confirm this. **Action: Brian Tolson**

**Xmas Tree and Festive Lights** – Alan had circulated notes about both subjects before the meeting. The bottom line being that the council can not afford to pay for both. A few options had been highlighted already including a 'Living' Xmas tree. But most options involved costs that were out of the Community Councils range.

Alan had also not had a response to his question regarding public liability insurance should we decide to put a tree up ourselves ie. local residents. Although this was still not clear it is evident that we would need a risk assessment and relevant PPE to be provided to residents for this purpose.

Brian posed the question as to whether this was really a Community Council issue, but no one could think of any organisation or group who would be prepared to take it on instead.

Brian suggested that we look at the issue from 2 points of view. Firstly, what we do this year and secondly what we do long term. He summarised the options as they are at the moment:

1. Have no tree at all.
2. Pay Highland Council to erect and light the tree (but at the moment we don't have the funds)
3. Have a living tree and try and get funding for this as we currently don't have enough available. We would also have to get the buy in of locals who were prepared to look after it.
4. Another community organisation takes over the responsibility.

Caroline mentioned that golf club had mentioned today that they had a big tournament on at the weekend but had no staff to support the halfway house so were offering this as an opportunity for us to sell snacks and drinks and raise some money. Although a great idea this was not achievable to organise is just 3 days. But it is an idea for next year possibly.

It was suggested whether we were able to use the environmental fund we have to purchase a living tree (cost approx. £1200) and then perhaps offer it to the Community Company to look after as we are not allowed to own any such items. Brian agreed that he

will approach the company about this idea. Councillors were agreed that we should spend the funds we had to ensure lights were put up throughout the village.

**Action: Brian Tolson**

**BOG Standard** – Brian expressed his thanks to Alan for helping with this issue and they were both pleased to announce that Dr Stephen Goodall has agreed to take on the role of Editor. Stephen can be contacted by email on the following address: boghistory.com

The previous Editor, Kevin Redgewell has offered help and support to Stephen as he starts his new role.

**Village Speed Limits and road markings new Boat Hotel corner.** – The council asked Muriel about timescales for the introduction of the 20mph limit (Twenty is plenty). Muriel was not sure of the detail but will follow up.

Valerie asked why we couldn't have double yellow lines instead of white as the congestion has been very bad recently. John also made the point that the issue is one of safety and not just parking. There have been incidents of people parking on pavements as well as parked cars causing obstruction.

Brian recollects that approx. 7 years ago this issue was investigated, and the introduction of double yellow lines would also affect the other side of the road near the post office, and this would not be acceptable. However, it is clear that the white lines are badly faded and need repainting. Muriel suggested that Brian contact Shane Manning at HC for advise on the matter, she also suggested that CNPA need to be made aware.

**Action: Brian Tolson**

## **8. Reports**

**Police** – Police report received and distributed before the meeting. No comments highlighted.

**NHS** – Muriel informed Councillors that visits of the new hospital in Aviemore start this weekend and that everything was going well. She also said that ambulance service are distributing an email address for anyone struggling to get hospital transport organized.

## **9. AOCB**

- Muriel said that Liz Cowie was look to organsie an inter council get together soon as this was well overdue.

## **10. Date of Next Ordinary Meeting and Annual General Meeting – Monday 11 October 2021**

The meeting closed at 20.20